AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for structuring an order, comprising the steps of:

creating a plurality of order-related objects including

a plurality of a first type of object representing a first aspect of an order; and

a plurality of a second type of object representing a second aspect of an order; and

establishing a plurality of relationships between the plurality of a first type of object and the plurality of a second type of object.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating a plurality of order-related objects includes creating one or more of a third type of object representing a third aspect of an order; the method further comprising the step of establishing a plurality of relationships between the plurality of a first type of object and the one or more of a third type of object.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of establishing a plurality of relationships between the plurality of a second type of object and the one or more of a third type of object.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of establishing a plurality of relationships between the plurality of a first type of object and the plurality of a second type of object includes establishing at least one relationship that is independent of the plurality of relationships between the plurality of a first type of object and the one or more of a third type of object.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating a plurality of a first type of object includes creating a plurality of item objects.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of creating a plurality of a second type of object includes creating a plurality of shipping objects.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of creating a plurality of a second type of object includes creating a plurality of payment objects.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of creating a plurality of a second type of object includes creating a plurality of cost center objects.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of creating an order object and establishing a relationship between the order object and at least one of the order-related objects.

10. (Original) A computer program product, residing on a computer-readable medium, for use in structuring an order, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

create a plurality of objects of a plurality of types, each of the plurality of types representing an aspect of an order; and

establish relationships between groups of the plurality of objects,

wherein each group includes objects of different types, and

wherein each relationship includes an identifier of each object in the group and an identifier of a relationship type.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, residing on a computer-readable medium, for use in structuring an order, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

create one or more of a first type of object, the first type of object representing a first aspect of an order;

create one or more of a second type of object, the second type of object representing a second aspect of an order;

create one or more of a third type of object, the third type of object representing a third aspect of an order;

establish relationships between objects of the first type and objects of the second type;

establish relationships between objects of the first type and objects of the third type; and

establish relationships between objects of the second type and objects of the third type.

12. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the first type of object includes an item object.

13. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the second type of object includes a payment object.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the second type of object includes a shipping object.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to create an order object.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to establish a default object of the second type for use if no objects of the second type are created.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing a computer to verify that an order is fully related to one or more objects of the second type.

18. (Original) A computer program product, residing on a computer-readable medium, for use in defining a relationship between a first type of object representing a first aspect of an order and a second type of object representing a second aspect of an order, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a computer to create a data structure comprising:

an identifier of an object of the first type;

an identifier of an object of the second type;

an identifier of a relationship type; and

an identifier of a relationship quantity,

wherein the identifier of an object of the first type and the identifier of an object of the second type identify the objects being related.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the identifier of a relationship quantity signifies a specific value for the extent of the relationship.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the identifier of a relationship quantity represents a remainder value for the extent of the relationship.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the identifier of a relationship type signifies that the relationship is for an amount remaining after one or more other relationships are satisfied.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the identifier of a relationship quantity signifies a maximum value for the extent of the relationship.

23. (Original) An ordering system comprising:

a user interface permitting a user to select items to be included in an order, one or more destinations for delivering the items in the order, and one or more payment mechanisms for paying for the order; and

an order processing module programmed to:

provide representations of the items in an order, the one or more destinations to which the items are to be delivered, and the one or more payment mechanisms for paying for the order;

establish relationships between individual of the representations of items and individual of the representations of destinations; and

establish relationships between individual of the representations of items and individual of the representations of payment mechanisms,

wherein the relationships between individual of the representations of items and individual of the representations of destinations are independent of the relationships between individual of the representations of items and individual of the representations of payment mechanisms.

24. (Original) The ordering system of claim 23, wherein each relationship includes an identifier of a relationship type.

25. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein a first of the plurality of item objects represent a plurality of units; and wherein the step of establishing a plurality of relationships between the plurality of a first type of object and the plurality of a second type of object includes

establishing a first relationship between a first subset of the plurality of units and a first of the second type of object and establishing a second relationship between a second subset of the plurality of units and a second of the second type of object.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of relationships are based on information provided by an ordering user.

27. (New) A computer program product, residing on a computer-readable medium, for use in structuring an order, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

create a plurality of objects of a plurality of types, each of the plurality of types representing an aspect of an order; and

establish relationships between groups of the plurality of objects,

wherein each group includes objects of different types, and

wherein each relationship includes a quantitative association between objects within the group.